

OLL 85- 3411
4 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Briefing of Tom Smeeton, House Foreign Affairs
Committee, on Diplomatic Reciprocity

1. At the behest of Congressman Henry Hyde, Tom Smeeton called me for information regarding diplomatic reciprocity legislation. Specifically, he wanted pro and con arguments on mandating strict numerical equivalence between U.S. diplomats in the Soviet Union and Soviet diplomats here. In addition he wanted to know the pros and cons of the requirement which would prohibit Soviet locals from working in our embassy in Moscow and the consulate in Leningrad. (U)

2. Arguments favoring strict equivalence are:
(1) reduction of Soviet counterintelligence threat by the reduction of Soviet presence in the U.S.; (2) fewer Soviet locals in the U.S. embassy in Moscow and the Leningrad consulate will avoid internal compromises such as bugged typewriters and spy dust; (3) because of our open society the Soviets can presently take advantage of information that is freely available compared to the closed Society of the Soviet Union with information that is relatively unavailable - then on balance a mere reduction of Soviet numbers here will be to our advantage. (C)

3. On the other hand some of the major disadvantages of required equivalence are: (1) Soviet retaliation by expulsion of U.S. personnel [redacted] (2) new U.S. persons taking over the routine jobs at our Moscow embassy once performed by local Soviets will be susceptible to compromise; (3) having only U.S. persons work at our embassy and consulate will increase costs significantly; (4) a strict mandate of equivalence and exclusive use of U.S. personnel infringes on the President's authority to conduct foreign policy; (5) once equivalence is accomplished the Soviets will transfer intelligence tasking to Eastern bloc diplomats in the U.S.; (6) equivalence does not apply to spouses, children or service personnel. (C)

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4. Smeeton was satisfied with the briefing and thanked us for the briefing. (U)



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Deputy Chief, Legislation Division

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